

Piracy of Argapyrin Formula by Foreign Companies

† 3073. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that formula for preparation of Argapyrin, an Ayurvedic medicine made by using garlic and onion has been pirated by foreign companies who have prepared an allopathic medicine under the same brand name;

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to prevent similar misuse of other Indian medicines by foreign companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

(c) The Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) is being set up to bring knowledge available in public domain about the medicinal use of plants in Ayurveda in easily accessible and retrievable form to prevent patenting by others. Certain protections are already available under Patent Act.

Eradication of Filariasis

3074. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that adequate treatment facilities are not available for Filariasis patients in the coastal States, particularly Orissa;

(b) whether Government propose to launch any national programme to eradicate Filariasis from those States; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

[23 March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) A National Filaria Control Programme (NFCP) is already in operation in the country since 1955. Although, operations under the programme have been limited to urban areas, it has been extended to rural areas also since 1994 for management of cases through primary health centres. In urban areas, 206 Filaria Control Units, 199 Filaria clinics and 26 survey units have been in operation for control of disease. The steps taken for control of fiariasis include:—

- recurrent anti-larval measures;
- using larvicides in the mosquito breeding places;
- anti-parasitic measures by detection of micro-filaria carrier and treatment with diethyl carbamazine (DEC);
- IEC activities for public awareness;
- Management of acute and chronic fiariasis through referral services;
- Biological control of mosquito breeding through biological agents specially larvivorous fishes;

Further, NFCP has initiated a project in 1997 with single dose annual mass drug therapy in 13 identified districts 7 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Kerala,

Non-expert DDG (TB)

3075. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DDG (TB) is not an expert on Tuberculosis; and

(b) if so, why he has been kept as DDG (TB) for so long, inspite of corruption cases against him?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) DDG